(d) in case the drilled wells could not be completed in totality whether the locations served the purpose of test drilling; and

(e) if not, the reasons why further drilling were not undertaken in surrounding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Out of the 36 (31 On-Shore and 5 Off-Shore) wells drilling by ONGC in West Bengal, geological objective could not be achieved in one case, i.e., Bodra 1, due to technical reasons. Two wells, viz., Ichapur-1 and Gold Green-1 in onland Bengal, gave indications and shows of hydrocarbon, during drilling/testing.

(e) Well Bodra 2 was drilled in the surrounding areas of Bodra 1.

Setting up of LNG Terminal at Haldia, West Bengal

417. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1959 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal has sought the support of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in setting up of a L.N.G. terminal at Haldia;

(b) whether the State Government has offered to take part in equity for setting up of such a project at Haldia; and

(c) if so, the response of Government to this offer, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Import of LNG is on the OGL and does not require licence from the Government. Currently, there is no proposal from any of the parties to establish LNG terminal at Haldia.

Lowering of Diesel Price

418. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a New Year gift, Government had decided to lower the diesel prices in tune with the fall in global oil prices;

(b) if so, the extent of reduction affected; and

(c) whether the prices of petrol and other petroleum products were also proportionately reduced, if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government announced a comprehensive package to end the oil pool deficit on September 1, 1997. The Government also decided that henceforth the price of HSD would be on import parity basis. Accordingly, the ex-storage point price of HSD has been revised as under:

Effective dates	Ex-storage point price (excluding excise duty etc.) Rs/KL
07.11.97	7918.04
25.12.97	7996.84
01.03.98	7839.24
04.04.98	7645.47
20.05.98	7536.89
09.01.99	6722.37

(c) The prices of MS/ATF/SKO are administered by the Government and there was no revision in the prices of these products as Oil Pool Account is still having deficit of Rs. 5821 crores as on 31.1.99. The naphtha price has been reduced by IOC by Rs. 250/MT w.e.f. 1st February, 1999.

Setting up of Regulatory Bodies in Petroleum Sector

419. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up three separate regulatory bodies to monitor and supervise the petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, what will be the functions of these bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) This Ministry has proposals to set up three regulatory bodies for petroleum sector with their main functions as indicated below:—

(i) **Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority** — The proposed main functions of this authority are — promotion of investment, prevention of entry barriers and catefisation, monitoring of supplies & prices and promotion of customer satisfaction.

(ii) **Gas Regulatory Authority** — This authority is proposed to regulate the operation of gas transmission and distribution networks. It would also ensure quality and security of supply and secure compliance with technical and safety standards besides settling disputes between various gas marketeers and the consumers.

(iii) **Hydrocarbons Regulatory and Development Authority** — It will deal with upstream petroleum sector activities and will primarily advise on the issues relating to optimal exploration of Hydrocarbons in the country and abroad, offering of acreage for exploration and exploitation under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). It will review, regulate and enforce safety aspects of oilfields operations and also review exploration programmes of the companies under the existing laws.

Dry Well in Cauvery Basin

420. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after five months of drilling ONGC struck a dry well at 745 meters below the sea in Cauvery basin;

(b) if so, whether the survey failed to point out the potential oil field; and

(c) the steps proposed to strengthen initial feedback accurately and stop mismanagement in the exploration work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Recently ONGC has drilled an exploratory wel (CDW-1-1A) at a water depth of 771 m in Cauvery Basin. No hydrocarban was struck at this well.

(b) Seismic surveys along with analysis of data obtained through various other surveys indicate possible entrapment situations only. The presence of hydrocarbons or otherwise is established only after drilling of well(s).

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above. However, information gathered during drilling will be a valuable geological input for better understanding of the area.